# Supersymmetric models for quarks and leptons with nonlinearly realized  $E_8$  symmetry

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We propose three supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  models with global symmetry E<sub>8</sub>. The models can accommodate three left-handed families of quarks and leptons without incurring the Adler-Bell-Jackiw anomaly with respect to either the standard  $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$  gauge group, or the SU(5), or SO(10) grand unifying gauge group. They also predict unambiguously a right-handed, fourth family of quarks and leptons. In order to explore the structure of the models, we develop a differential-form formulation of the Kahler manifolds, resulting in general expressions for the curvature tensors and other geometrical objects in terms of the structure constants of the algebra, and the squashing parameters. These results, in turn, facilitate a general method for determining the Lagrangian to quartic order, and so the structure of the inherent four-fermion interactions of the models. We observe that the Kahlerian condition  $d\omega=0$  on the fundamental two-form  $\omega$  greatly reduces the number of the independent squashing parameters. We also point out two plausible mechanisms for symmetry breaking, involving gravity.

## I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Among the field theories that are useful in physics, pure gauge field theories, the general theory of relativity, and nonlinear  $\sigma$  models distinguish themselves by their elegant embodiment of symmetry. Both the particle content and the form of interactions in these theories are uniquely determined by symmetry, leaving only the magnitude of the coupling constants free. The coupling constants of gauge field theory are dimensionless while their counterparts in the general theory of relativity and the nonlinear  $\sigma$  model are dimensionful. Consequently only gauge field theories are renormalizable. For the other two, the dimensional coupling constants define the critical mass scales beyond which the theories fail; in other words, the underlying systems enter a new phase at these critical mass scales.

In the nonlinear  $\sigma$  model for pions,<sup>1</sup> the dimensional coupling constant  $F_{\pi}$  denotes the mass scale characterizing the dynamical spontaneous breakdown of global chiral symmetry  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$  to  $SU(2)_V$ . The origin of the chiral symmetry is easily understood in terms of the quark model of hadronic matter. Analogously, in general relativity, the Planck mass,  $M_p$ , may be taken as a critical mass scale beyond which space-time enters a different phase.

The standard  $SU(3)\times SU(2)\times U(1)$  gauge theory<sup>2</sup> for the strong, weak, and electromagnetic interactions is renormalizable. When it is extended to incorporate the quarks, leptons, and the Higgs scalar fields, care is taken to preserve renormalizability. The only dimensional parameters appearing in the Lagrangian are the mass terms of the scalar fields. Extension to grand unified gauge theories<sup>3</sup> with asymptotic freedom further tames the running coupling constant of the original  $U(1)$  in the ultraviolet region. The characteristic mass scales brought out by the renorrnalization procedure, and at which the gauge couplings diverge, appear at the infrared region. We would like to retain, as far as possible, this picture of gauge interactions, grand unified or not, in the present paper. The standard formulation carries with it an implicit assumption that quarks and leptons are elementary, or equivalently, of the absence of a critical mass scale  $(\Lambda_{\sigma})$  in the ultraviolet region, around and beyond which the quarks and leptons will not be the proper dynamical degrees of freedom. So far there is no experimental evidence in direct conflict with the assumption of elementary quarks and leptons. If  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  does exist in nature, then from the  $(g - 2)$  factor of the electron and muon one estimates  $\Lambda_{\sigma} > 10^3$  TeV (Ref. 4) and from  $e^+e^-$  Bhabha scattering  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  > 750 GeV (Ref. 5). In either case  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  is much greater than the known masses of quarks and leptons.

In this paper we explore the implications of the plausible existence of  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  in terms of the supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model.<sup>6</sup> What we hope to derive ultimately is a natural explanation of some features of elementary particle physics not accounted for by standard renormalizable field theory.<sup>2,3</sup> These features include three-family structure of the observed quark-lepton spectrum, and the mass matrix of quarks and leptons. The mass matrix would involve inevitably the scale characterizing the breakdown of the SU(2)<sub>L</sub>  $\times$ U(1) symmetry to U(1)<sub>em</sub>, therefore the physics flowing from  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ , though perhaps necessary, is certainly not sufficient for this purpose. The three-family structure, in contrast, is independent of the mechanism for the symmetry breakdown and so might be determined completely by physics at  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ .

The supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model provides a field-theoretic setting that accommodates massless fermions, henceforth to be referred to as  $\sigma$  fermions, massless spin-0 bosons, and a critical mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  in the form of a dimensionful coupling constant. The model assumes that the phase beyond  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ , which we shall call the preonic phase, possesses supersymmetry. It makes no assumption about the proper dynamical degrees of freedom in the preonic phase of matter.

Each nonlinear  $\sigma$  model is characterized by an abstract manifold on which the spin-0 Bose fields take values.<sup>7</sup> The collection of general coordinate transformations on the manifold which leave the length of an infinitesimal line element on the manifold invariant forms a group called the isometry group. A subgroup of the isometry group which leaves a point  $p$  of the manifold fixed is called the isotropy group at the point  $p$ . Obviously the tangent space at the point  $p$  forms a linear representation of the isotropy group, called the isotropy representation. For the manifolds that interest us, both the isotropy group and the isotropy representation are the same for every point of the manifold. The action of a nonlinear  $\sigma$  model is invariant under the isometry group of transformations of the abstract manifold.

The abstract manifold for the  $N = 1$  supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model<sup>6</sup> in (3 + 1)-dimensional space-time must perforce be a Kahlerian complex manifold.<sup>8</sup> The spin-0 bosons are represented by complex scalar fields, denoted by  $\phi^i$ , and the  $\sigma$  fermions by two-component Weyl fermions, denoted by  $\chi^i$ . Together with auxiliary complex scalar field  $F^i$ ,  $\phi^i$ , and  $\chi^i$  form a chiral superfield  $\Phi^i$ . The superspace action takes the form

$$
I = \int d^4x \, d^2\theta \, d^2\overline{\theta} \, K(\Phi^i, \Phi^{*j}) \;, \tag{1}
$$

where  $K(\Phi^i, \Phi^{*j})$  is a real function of the chiral superfields  $\Phi^i$ , and antichiral superfields  $\Phi^{*j}$ , which is obtained from the Kahler potential  $K(\phi^i, \phi^{*j})$  by simply substituting  $\Phi^i$  for  $\phi^i$ , and  $\Phi^{*j}$  for  $\phi^{*j}$ . Obviously the action is invariant under the transformation

$$
K(\phi^i, \phi^{*j}) \to K(\phi^i, \phi^{*j}) + F(\phi^i) + F^*(\phi^{*j}), \qquad (2)
$$

where  $F(\phi^i)$  is any holomorphic function of the  $\phi^i$ . After integration over  $\theta$  and  $\bar{\theta}$ , and elimination of the auxiliary fields  $F<sup>i</sup>$ , Eq. (1) yields the Lagrangian density

$$
\mathcal{L} = -g_{ij*} \partial_{\mu} \phi^i \partial^{\mu} \phi^{*j} - \frac{i}{2} g_{ij*} \chi^i \sigma^{\mu} D_{\mu} \overline{\chi}^j
$$
  
 
$$
- \frac{i}{2} g_{ij*} \overline{\chi}^j \overline{\sigma}^{\mu} D_{\mu} \chi^i + \frac{1}{4} R_{ik*jl*} (\chi^i \chi^j)(\overline{\chi}^k \overline{\chi}^l) . \qquad (3)
$$

Here  $g_{ij*}$ ,  $R_{ik*jl*}$ , and  $D\chi^i$  are, respectively, the metric tensor, curvature tensor, and covariant derivatives defined

on the Kahler manifold. We have explicitly  
\n
$$
g_{ij*} = \partial_i \partial_{jk} K(\phi, \phi^*) ,
$$
\n(4)

$$
R_{ik*ji*} = \partial_j \partial_{l*} g_{ik*} - g^{mn*} \partial_j g_{in*} \partial_{l*} g_{mk*} , \qquad (5)
$$

and

$$
D\chi^{i} = \partial \chi^{i} + g^{il*} \partial_{k} g_{jl*} \partial \phi^{j} \chi^{k} , \qquad (6)
$$

where  $g^{il*}$  is the inverse of the metric tensor  $g_{ij*}$ .

A beautiful class of Kahler manifolds exists, where each can be expressed as a coset space  $G/H$ . Here G is a compact, connected, simple Lie group and  $H$  a closed subgroup which is the centralizer of a torus in  $G$  (Ref. 9).  $G/H$  is a homogeneous space with isometry group  $G$  and isotropy group H. The scalar fields  $\phi^i$ , being a local coordinate system of the manifold, form a nonlinear realization of G. The  $\sigma$  fermions  $\chi^i$ , transforming in the same way as  $d\phi^i$  under the action of G, transform like an isotropy representation under the action of H. Most of the  $\sigma$ 

of a desirable model will be identified as the known quarks and leptons.<sup>10,11</sup> The  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times (U)(1)$ gauge interactions, and similarly the grand unifying gauge groups  $SU(5)$  or  $SO(10)$ , will be obtained by gauging a part of  $H$ . The isotropy representation of a manifold is thus the chief means by which we identify the promising models. The content of an isotropy representation is completely determined once the  $G$ ,  $H$ , and an invariant complex structure<sup>12</sup> are chosen.

In Ref. 10 we showed that, within the class of models mentioned above, only those with  $G = E_7$ ,  $E_8$  can have an isotropy representation capable of accommodating three families of quarks and leptons. In the case of  $G=E_7$ , the grand unifying gauge group can be SU(5), and there are three possible choices of H, namely,  $H = SU(5) \times U(1)^3$ ,  $SU(5) \times SU(2) \times (U)(1)^2$ , and  $SU(5) \times SU(3) \times U(1)$  (Ref. 13). But they suffer from the Adler-Bell-Jackiw (ABJ) anomaly.<sup>14</sup> It is not possible to accommodate both an  $H \supset SO(10)$  and three families of quarks and leptons simultaneously when  $G = E_7$ . In the present paper we will show that when  $G = E_8$  and  $H = SO(10) \times U(1)^3$ ,  $SO(10)\times SU(2)\times U(1)^2$ , and  $SO(10)\times SU(3)\times U(1)$ , the corresponding models can accommodate the three lefthanded families of quarks and leptons without incurring the ABJ anomaly with respect to either  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)$ , SU(5), or SO(10)-gauge group. An additional surprising prediction of the  $E_8$  models is that there is a right-handed, fourth family of quarks and leptons. The fourth family differs from the first three also in the U(1)<sup>3</sup>-, SU(2) $\times$ U(1)<sup>2</sup>-, and SU(3) $\times$ U(1)representation content for the cases where  $H = SO(10)$  $\times$ U(1)<sup>3</sup>, SO(10) $\times$ SU(2) $\times$ U(1)<sup>2</sup>, and SO(10) $\times$ SU(3)  $\times$  U(1), respectively. It is not possible to find an invariant complex structure such that all four families are lefthanded simultaneously.

The  $E_8$  and  $E_7$  models are highly interesting in yet another respect which we shall mention now. The isotropy representations of the associated abstract manifolds are reducible. Generally, a homogeneous manifold  $G/H$ , which need not be Kahlerian or even complex, with a reducible isotropy representation would allow independent rescalings<sup>15</sup> for coframes (vielbeins) corresponding to the different irreducible components of the isotropy representation without affecting the isometry group. The rescaling act is often referred to as squashing. Thus, an ordinary (i.e., without supersymmetry) nonlinear  $\sigma$  model based on such a manifold would carry as many independent squashing parameters as the number of irreducible components in the isotropy representation. The Kahler manifolds for the  $E_8$  and  $E_7$  models are indeed squashed manifolds. But we will show that the Kahlerian condition on the metric tensors of the manifolds greatly reduces the degrees of independent rescalings. Furthermore, we will show that there exists a unique choice of the ratio of rescalings for which a Kahlerian manifold is of the Einstein type

Let us now outline the order of presentation in the present paper. In Sec. II we determine the invariant complex structures for the  $E_8/H$  manifolds by analyzing the root space of the Lie algebra  $E_8$ . We then find a proper basis for the algebra, and construct the commutators in terms of this basis. The isotropy representations, and so the field content of the  $E_8$  models, are determined in this section.

In Sec. III we develop a differential-form approach to the Kahler manifold. We derive the general expressions for the various geometrical objects such as the connection one-form, curvature two-form, and Ricci two-form, which are not available elsewhere in the literature. It is here that we find the results relating to squashing that we mentioned above.

In Sec. IV we propose a general method for determination of the Kahler potential to the quartic order. We apply the method to one of the  $E_8$  models, namely, that with  $H = SO(10) \times SU(3) \times U(1)$ .

In Sec. V we point out some general features of the four-fermion interactions inherent in the supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model. For the E<sub>8</sub> models, the inherent fourfermion interactions can induce proton instability even in the absence of any grand unifying gauge interactions. Thus the critical mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  of the models should be around or beyond  $10^{15}$  GeV.

In Sec. VI we propose two plausible mechanisms for the explicit breakdown of the global symmetry G when a supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model is coupled to supergravity.

In Sec. VII we conclude the paper with some further discussions. These include the value of the mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ , and the implications of the  $E_8$  models.

The Appendix provides the commutators of  $E_8$  algebra in terms of a basis adapted to the structure of the  $E_8$ models.

# II. THE FIELD CONTENT OF THE E8 MODELS—INVARIANT COMPLEX STRUCTURE AND E8 ALGEBRA

Besides being a nonlinear realization of the global symmetry G, the complex scalar fields  $\phi^i$  also take part in the linear representations, namely, the chiral supermultiplets  $\Phi^i$ , of supersymmetry. In order to ensure that the algebra of G commutes with the supersymmetry algebra, it is necessary that G transforrnations do not mix chiral supermultiplets with antichiral supermultiplets. Accordingly the action of G on  $\phi^i$  which are complex coordinates on the manifold  $G/H$  is characterized by a set of holomorphic Killing vectors on the manifold. In other words, the manifold is endowed with a  $G$ -invariant complex structure.

The criterion<sup>12</sup> for an invariant complex structure on the Kahler manifold  $G/H$  can be stated in terms of some positivity and closure properties defined on a system of roots of the algebra G. Let  $\Omega = {\omega_1, \omega_2, \ldots, \omega_m}$ ,  $\omega_{m+1}, \ldots, \omega_{m+h}$  by a system of positive roots of the algebra G such that a subset of it, say,  $\Theta = \{\omega_{m+1}, \omega_{m+2},$  $\ldots, \omega_{m+h}$ , form a system of positive roots for H. Then the subset  $\Psi = {\omega_1, \omega_2, \ldots, \omega_m}$  defines an invariant complex structure if it is a closed system of roots. A set of roots of G is said to be closed if it contains the sum of any two of its elements whenever this sum is a root of G. The system of roots of an invariant structure,  $\Psi$ , can be split into further subsets each of which can be identified with the weights of an irreducible linear representation of the

group  $H$ . This provides an algorithm for determining the irreducible pieces of a reducible isotropy representation, and thus the corresponding invariant complex structure.

The root space of  $E_8$  is an eight-dimensional Euclidean space.<sup>16</sup> In terms of an orthogonal basis  $e_i$ ,  $i = 1, \ldots, 8$ , the roots of  $E_8$  can be expressed as

$$
\pm e_i \pm e_j, \quad 1 \leq i \neq j \leq 8 \ ,
$$

and

$$
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 \pm e_6 \pm e_7 \pm e_8)
$$

with an even number of plus signs in the parentheses  $(\ldots)$ . We chose the following system of simple roots for  $E_8$ , namely,  $\{\alpha_i, i=1,2,...,8\}$ , where

$$
\alpha_1 = e_1 - e_2, \ \alpha_2 = e_2 - e_3, \ \alpha_3 = e_3 - e_4 ,
$$
  
\n
$$
\alpha_4 = e_4 - e_5, \ \alpha_5 = \frac{1}{2}(-e_1 - e_2 - e_3 - e_4 + e_5 - e_6 + e_7 - e_8),
$$
  
\n
$$
\alpha_6 = e_6 - e_7, \ \alpha_7 = e_7 + e_8, \ \alpha_8 = e_4 + e_5 .
$$

The resulting system of positive roots of  $E_8$  is

$$
\Omega = \{e_i \pm e_j, 1 \le i < j \le 5, \\
 e_6 \pm e_7, \\
 e_7 \pm e_8, \\
 e_6 \pm e_8, \\
 \pm e_i + e_6, 1 \le i \le 5, \\
 \pm e_i + e_7, 1 \le i \le 5, \\
 \pm e_i - e_8, 1 \le i \le 5, \\
 \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 - e_7 - e_8), \\
 \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 - e_6 + e_7 - e_8), \\
 \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 + e_7 + e_8), \\
 \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 + e_7 - e_8)\}.
$$

Again the total number of plus signs in each parentheses  $( \ldots )$  above should be even. For the case  $G/H=E_8/$  $SO(10)\times SU(3)\times U(1)$ , one can verify that the system of positive roots of  $H$  is

$$
\Theta = \{e_i \pm e_j, 1 \le i < j \le 5 ,\n e_6 - e_7 ,\n e_6 + e_8 ,\n e_7 + e_8 \} .
$$

And the system of roots of invariant complex structure is

$$
\Psi = \{e_6 + e_7, e_6 - e_8, e_7 - e_8, \n\pm e_i + e_6, 1 \le i \le 5, \n\pm e_i + e_7, 1 \le i \le 5, \n\pm e_i - e_8, 1 \le i \le 5, \n\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 - e_7 - e_8)
$$

$$
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 - e_6 + e_7 - e_8),
$$
  

$$
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 + e_7 + e_8),
$$
  

$$
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5 + e_6 + e_7 - e_8)\}
$$

Thus the isotropy representation can be taken to be

$$
\Gamma = (16, 3, \frac{1}{3}) + (16^*, 1, 1) + (10, 3^*, \frac{2}{3}) + (1, 3, \frac{4}{3}).
$$
 (7)

Next one can check that  $\Psi' = \Psi \cup \{e_6+e_8, e_7+e_8\}$  and  $\Psi'' = \Psi' \cup \{e_6 - e_7\}$  are the systems of roots of the invariant complex structure for the Kahler manifolds  $E_8/SO(10)\times SU(2)\times U(1)^2$  and  $E_8/SO(10)\times U(1)^3$ , respectively. We have the regular embedding  $U(1)^3 \subset SU(2)$  $\times$ U(1)<sup>2</sup>CSU(3) $\times$ U(1). The isotropy representation of the Kahler manifold  $E_8/SO(10)\times SU(2)\times U(1)^2$  with the structure  $\Psi'$  is

$$
\Gamma' = (16, 2, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}) + (16, 1, -1, \frac{1}{3})
$$
  
+  $(16^*, 1, 0, 1) + (10, 2, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3})$   
+  $(10, 1, 1, \frac{2}{3}) + (1, 2, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{3})$   
+  $(1, 1, -1, \frac{4}{3}) + (1, 2, \frac{3}{2}, 0)$  (8)

with respect to  $SO(10)\times SU(2)\times U(1)'\times U(1)$ . The isotropy representation of the Kahler manifold  $E_8/SO(10)$  $\times$ U(1)<sup>3</sup> with the structure  $\Psi$ " is

$$
\Gamma'' = (16, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}) + (16, -1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3})
$$
  
+  $(16, 0, -1, \frac{1}{3}) + (16^*, 0, 0, 1)$   
+  $(10, 1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}) + (10, -1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3})$   
+  $(10, 0, 1, \frac{2}{3}) + (1, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{3})$   
+  $(1, -1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{3}) + (1, 0, -1, \frac{4}{3})$   
+  $(1, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 0) + (1, -1, \frac{3}{2}, 0)$   
+  $(1, 2, 0, 0)$ , (9)

with respect to  $SO(10)\times U(1)''\times U(1)'\times U(1)$ .

The basis of the  $E_8$  algebra can always be chosen to reflect a given isotropy representation. For the isotropy representation  $\Gamma$  of Eq. (7), we choose the basis

$$
\{L_{AB}, T^I_J, T, \overline{X}_I, \overline{Y}^I_A, \overline{W}_{I\dot{\alpha}}, \overline{Z}_{\alpha}, X^I, Y_{IA}, W^I_{\alpha}, Z_{\dot{\alpha}}\} \ . \tag{10}
$$

Here the indices  $I,J=1,2,3$  are the SU(3) indices; A,  $B = 1,2,...,10$  are SO(10) indices;  $\alpha = 1,2,...,16$  is the SO(10) spinor 16-index; and  $\alpha$  the 16<sup>\*</sup>-index.  $L_{A,B}$ ,  $T_J^I$ , and T are anti-Hermitian, and  $\sum_{I} T_{I}^{I} = 0$ . They generate<br>the SO(10), SU(3), and U(1). The barred generators are anti-Hermitian conjugates of the corresponding unbarred generators. The collection  $\{X^I, Y_{IA}, W_{\alpha}^I, Z_{\dot{\alpha}}\}\)$  has the identical representation content as the  $\Gamma$ . The explicit expressions for the commutators of  $E_8$  algebra in terms of the basis given by Eq. (10) are collected in the Appendix.

A basis of the  $E_8$  algebra which is adapted to the isotropy representation  $\Gamma'$  of Eq. (8) can be obtained from the basis of Eq. (10) by splitting the set of SU(3) generators as

$$
\{T_j^I, J, J = 1, 2, 3\} = \left\{ S_j^I = T_j^I - \frac{1}{2} \delta_j^I \sum_{1}^{2} T_i^I, i, j = 1, 2 \right\}
$$

$$
\cup \left\{ S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1}^{2} T_i^I - T_3^3 \right\}
$$

$$
\cup \left\{ V^j = T_j^j, \overline{V}_j = T_j^3, j = 1, 2 \right\} .
$$

Similarly we obtain a basis of  $E_8$  adapted to the isotropy imilarly we obtain a basis of  $E_8$  adapted to the isotropy epresentation  $\Gamma''$  from Eq. (10) by further splitting of the set of SU(2) generators:

$$
\{S_j^i, i,j=1,2\} = \{N = T_1^1 - T_2^2\} \cup \{U = T_2^1, \overline{U} = T_1^2\}.
$$

The isotropy representations  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Gamma'$ , and  $\Gamma''$  establish our claim that the  $E_8$  models allow three left-handed, and one right-handed family of quarks and. leptons. They are obviously free from the ABJ anomaly with respect to the group SO(10), and so are with respect to the regular subgroups  $SU(5)\times U(1) \subset SO(10)$  and  $SU(3)\times SU(2)\times U(1)^2$  $\subset$ SO(10). We note that the isotropy representation  $\Gamma$  of  $E_8/SO(10)\times SU(3)\times U(1)$  is not ABJ-anomaly free with respect to the SU(3) factor of the isotropy group, nor with respect to the U(1) factor. We also observe that both  $\Gamma'$ and  $\Gamma$ " incur the ABJ anomaly with respect to at least one U(1) factor of the respective isotropy groups. One cannot gauge these anomalous symmetries. The anomalous U(1)'s provide naturally a Peccei-Quinn symmetry because of the U(1)-SO(10)-SO(10) triangle anomaly.

## III. GEOMETRICAL OBJECTS ON KAHLER MANIFOLD

We regard Kahler manifold  $G/H$  as a collection of right cosets  $\{gH\}$  parametrized by complex numbers  $\{z^i\}$ . The left action of  $g \in G$  on a coset representative  $L(z, z^*)$ is given by

$$
gL(z,z^*)=L(z',z'^*)h , \t\t(11)
$$

where h, an element of H, and  $L(z', z^*)$  are functions of g and  $L(z,z^*)$ . The explicit form of  $L(z,z^*)$  depends on the specific embedding of  $G/H$  in  $G$ .

A left invariant one-form can be defined in terms of  $L(z,z^*)$ : 1 to re-<br>
the specific embedding of  $G/H$  in  $G$ .<br>
A left invariant one-form can be defined in terms of<br>  $L(z, z^*)$ :<br>  $e(z, z^*) \equiv L^{-1}(z, z^*) dL(z, z^*)$  . (12)

$$
e(z, z^*) \equiv L^{-1}(z, z^*) dL(z, z^*) \tag{12}
$$

It takes value on Lie algebra of G. We shall denote by  $T_{\alpha}$  a basis for the algebra, adapted to an invariant complex structure. We use the following index convention:  $\alpha, \beta, \ldots$  for generic G indices;  $a, b, \ldots$  for H.  $ndices; I, J, \ldots$  for holomorphic flat coset indices; and  $i, j, \ldots$  for holomorphic curved coset indices. Antiholomorphic indices are obtained by putting an asterisk on top of the corresponding holomorphic indices. We can write the one-form  $e(z, z^*)$  as

$$
e(z, z^*) = T_I e^I + T_{I*} e^{I*} + T_{\alpha} e^{\alpha}
$$
  
=  $T_I e^I_i dz^i + T_{I*} e^{I*}_{i*} dz^{i*} + T_{\alpha} e^{\alpha}_i dz^i + T_{\alpha} e^{I*}_{i*} dz^{i*}$ , (13)

where  $e_i^I$ ,  $e_{i*}^{I*}$ ,  $e_i^a$ , and  $e_{i*}^a$  are functions of both z and  $z^*$ . In particular  $e_i^T$  and  $e_{i*}^{I*}$  will play the role of vielbein (coframe) on the manifold  $G/H$ . It follows from Eq. (12) that the one-form satisfies the Maurer-Cartan equation:

$$
de = -e \wedge e \tag{14}
$$

And from the anti-Hermiticity of e and  $T_{\alpha}$ , i.e.,  $e_{t_{\alpha}}^{\dagger} = -e$ ,  $(e_i^a)^* = e_{i*}^a$ .

The action of  $g \in G$  on the one-form is given by the transformation law

$$
e(z',z'^*) = h(g,z,z^*)e(z,z^*)h^{-1}(g,z,z^*)
$$
  
+ 
$$
h(g,z,z^*)dh^{-1}(g,z,z^*)
$$
. (15)

Or, equivalently,

$$
e^{I}(z',z'^{*}) = D_{J}^{I}(h^{-1})e^{J}(z,z^{*}) , \qquad (16)
$$

$$
e^{a}(z',z'^{*}) = D_{b}^{a}(h^{-1})e^{b}(z,z^{*}) + (h\,dh^{-1})^{a} , \qquad (17)
$$

and the complex conjugate of (16). Here  $D_{\alpha}^{\beta}(g)$  denotes the adjoint representation of  $g \in G$ :  $g^{-1}T_{\alpha}g=D_{\alpha}^{\beta}(g)T_{\beta}$ . The matrices  $D_J^I(h^{-1})$ ,  $h \in H$ , are block diagonal in our chosen basis. Each block acts on an irreducible representation of  $H$ . Therefore the transformation laws  $(16)$  and its complex conjugate allows the construction of a Ginvariant Hermitian metric on G/H:

$$
ds^2 = g_{ij*} dz^i dz^{*j} = c_I e^I e^{I*} , \qquad (18)
$$

where  $C_I$  are positive-definite real numbers, but otherwise could be different for different H-irreducible sectors. The metric can be brought back to the canonical form

$$
ds^2 = \tilde{e}^I \tilde{e}^{I*} \tag{19}
$$

by adopting the rescaled vielbein

$$
\tilde{e}^I = \sqrt{c_I} e^I \,. \tag{20}
$$

For the ordinary (i.e., without supersymmetry) nonlinear  $\sigma$  model based on an abstract manifold with a reducible isotropy representation, the  $C_I$  associated with each irreducible sector is in principle an independent parameter. Thus the model is characterized by as many independent characteristic mass scales as the number of  $H$ -irreducible sectors in the isotropy representation.<sup>15</sup> The rescalings of the vielbein, Eq. (20), are often referred to as the squashings of the manifold. In supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$ models the  $C_I$ 's are constrained by additional conditions which will now be explained.

To the metric defined by Eq. (18) we associate a twoform:

$$
\omega = \frac{1}{2} i g_{jk*} dz^{j} \wedge dz^{k*} = \frac{1}{2} i C_{I} e^{I} \wedge e^{I*} . \qquad (21)
$$

A complex manifold is a Kahler manifold if and only if the two-form is closed, i.e.,  $d\omega=0$ . By applying the Maurer-Cartan structure equation (14) and Eq. (21), we find readily that the condition  $d\omega = 0$  demands that

$$
C_I + C_J = C_K \quad \text{if } f^K_{IJ} \neq 0 \tag{22}
$$

Here  $f_{IJ}^K$  is the structure constant:  $[T_I, T_J]=f_{IJ}^KT_K$ . If we pause now to examine the  $E_8$  model with the isotropy

group  $H = SO(10) \times SU(3) \times U(1)$ , the commutators of the  $E_8$  algebra (see the Appendix) are such that the ratio among  $C_I$  is unambiguously determined. That is,  $C_X:C_Y:C_W:C_Z = 4:2:1:3.$  And the model has only one independent characteristic mass scale. This property is shared by all supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  models in which the center of the isotropy group  $H$  has only one U(1) factor; the ratio among  $C_I$  is identical to the ratio among the eigenvalues of the U(1) generator in the isotropy representation.

In the case when the center of the isotropy group  $H$  has two or more than two U(1) factors,  $C_M$  can be any linear combination of  $Q^{a}(M)$ , the generators of the U(1)'s,

$$
C_M \equiv \alpha_a Q^a(M) \tag{22a}
$$

Here the coefficients  $\alpha_a$  are such that  $C_M$  is positive definite for all values of  $M$ , but are otherwise arbitrary. Consequently, the corresponding model has as many independent characteristic mass scales as the number  $(n)$  of the U(1) factors. (Of course the condition that  $C_M > 0$  for all  $M$  puts some bounds on the mass scales.) Alternatively, one can parametrize with just one mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ , corresponding to the overall squashing, plus the angles of the spherical polar coordinate system in  $n$  dimensions.

In terms of the rescaled vielbein, the connection oneform  $\Gamma^I$  is given by

$$
d\tilde{e}^{I} + \Gamma^{I}_{J} \wedge \tilde{e}^{J} = 0 \tag{23}
$$

18) and the anti-Hermiticity condition  
wise  

$$
(\Gamma_J^I)^* = -\Gamma_J^J.
$$
 (24)

By applying the Maurer-Cartan structure equation, we obtain from Eq. (23) that

$$
\Gamma_J^I = \left(\frac{C_J}{C_I C_K}\right)^{1/2} f_{KJ}^I \tilde{e}^K + \left(\frac{C_I}{C_J C_K}\right)^{1/2} f_{K^*J}^I \tilde{e}^{K^*} + f_{aJ}^I \tilde{e}^a.
$$
\n(25)

The curvature two-form  $R_J^I$  can now be evaluated. By definition

$$
R_J^I = d\Gamma_J^I + \Gamma_K^I \wedge \Gamma_J^K \,. \tag{26}
$$

Substituting Eq. (25) in Eq. (26), we obtain

$$
R_J^I = \left[ \frac{1}{(C_M C_N)^{1/2}} f_{aJ}^I f_{MN}^a + \left[ \frac{C_J}{C_I C_M C_N} \right]^{1/2} f_{KJ}^I f_{MN}^K \right]
$$

$$
- \left[ \frac{C_I}{C_J C_M C_N} \right]^{1/2} f_{K^*J}^I f_{MN*}^{K*}
$$

$$
- \frac{1}{C_K} \left[ \frac{C_I C_J}{C_M C_N} \right]^{1/2} f_{N*K}^I f_{MJ}^K
$$

$$
+ \frac{C_K}{(C_I C_J C_M C_N)^{1/2}} f_{MK}^I f_{N*J}^K \right] \tilde{e}^M \wedge \tilde{e}^{N*} . \qquad (27)
$$

Thus the nonvanishing components of the curvature tensor are of the form  $R_{J_{MN}*}^T$  ( $R_{J_{N*}M}^T = -R_{J_{MN}*}^T$ ). The Ricci tensor has the nonvanishing components

$$
S_{MN*} = \sum_{I} R_{IMN*}^{I} = \frac{-2}{C_M} f_{aI}^{I} f_{MN*}^{a} .
$$
 (28)

The scalar curvature can also be evaluated to yield

$$
R = \frac{-2}{C_M} f_{aI}^I f_{MM*}^a \tag{29}
$$

The nonvanishing contributions to the factor  $\Sigma_I f_{aI}^I$  of Eqs.  $(28)$  and  $(29)$  comes only from those indices a that correspond to the generators of the center of H. And for such indices a, the structure constant

$$
f_{MN*}^a \propto Q^a(M)\delta_{MN*} \tag{30}
$$

where  $Q^{a}(M)$  denotes the *ath* toral U(1) charge of the generator indexed by M. Therefore the Kahler manifold becomes an Einstein type, i.e.,  $S_{MN*} \propto \delta_{MN*}$ , for the following value of  $C_M$ :

$$
C_M \propto \sum_{a,I} Q^a(I) Q^a(M) \ . \tag{31}
$$

This choice of  $C_M$  obviously satisfies the condition (22). [The proportionality constant of Eq. (31) can be shown to be positive definite.]

# IV. DETERMINATION OF KAHLER POTENTIAL TO THE QUARTIC ORDER

The Kahler potential is of interest because it determines the Lagrangian density, Eq. (1), of the supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model. We have not yet found a practical and general method for computing the full expression for the Kahler potential. We have succeeded in inventing a general method for calculating the Kahler potential to quartic order, which will be explained in the following.

Given a connection one-form for a Riemann manifold,

the antisymmetric part of the connection is simply the torsion, which transforms as a tensor under a general coordinate transformation on the manifold. The symmetric part is not a tensor, and its value at a given point may be created or annihilated by proper choice of a local coordinate system. A Kahler manifold has zero torsion; therefore, a coordinate system exists such that the connection vanishes at the origin of the coordinates. We denote by  $\{\phi^i\}$  the coordinate system, and  $K(\phi, \phi^*)$  the Kahler potential with respect to these coordinates, then

and

$$
R_{ik*ji*}\Big|_{\phi=\phi*=0} = \partial_i \partial_{k*} \partial_j \partial_{l*} K(\phi, \phi^*)\Big|_{\phi=\phi*=0}.
$$

 $g_{ij*}$ <sub> $\phi = \phi * = 0$ </sub> $= \partial_i \partial_{j*} K(\phi, \phi^*)$ <sub> $\phi = \phi * = 0$ </sub>

The first-order and third-order derivatives of  $K(\phi, \phi^*)$ vanish at the origin. Therefore the values of the metric tensor and curvature tensor at the origin of the coordinates are sufficient to determine the Kahler potential to the quartic order. The metric tensor at the origin is simply  $\delta_{ijk}$ , and the value of the curvature tensor at the origin is determined by Eq. (27) in terms of the squashing ratios  $C_I$  and the structure constants  $f^{\alpha}_{\beta\gamma}$ .

Among the three  $E_8$  models, we have calculated  $K(\phi, \phi^*)$  for the one with isotropy groups  $H = SO(10) \times (SU)(3) \times U(1)$ , using the method. Let  ${x^1, y_{IA}, w_\alpha^I, z_\alpha}$  be complex coordinates, consistent with our method, on the Kahler manifold  $E_8/SO(10)$  $\times$ SU(3) $\times$ U(1). Then, up to quartic order, the Kahler potential is

$$
K(\phi, \phi^*) = x^I \overline{x}_I + y_I_A \overline{y}^I_A + w^I_A \overline{w}_{I\dot{\alpha}} + z_{\dot{\alpha}} \overline{z}_{\alpha}
$$
  
+  $\lambda \left[ \frac{1}{4} (x^I \overline{x}_I)^4 + \frac{1}{2} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^I_A)(x^K \overline{x}_K) - \frac{1}{2} (x^I \overline{x}_K)(y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^K_A) + \frac{1}{2} (x^I \overline{w}_{I\dot{\alpha}})(w^K \overline{x}_K) + \frac{1}{2} (x^I \overline{x}_I)(z_{\dot{\alpha}} \overline{z}_{\alpha})$   
+  $\frac{1}{2} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^K_A)(y_{KB} \overline{y}^I_B) - \frac{1}{4} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} y_{KA})(\overline{y}^I_B \overline{y}^K_B) - \frac{1}{3} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^K_B)(\overline{w}_K \Sigma_{AB} w^I) + (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^I_B)(\overline{w}_K \Sigma_{AB} w^K)$   
-  $\frac{5}{6} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^K_A)(w^I \overline{w}_K) + \frac{1}{2} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^I_A)(w^K \overline{w}_K) - \frac{2}{3} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^I_B)(z \Sigma_{AB} \overline{z}) + \frac{1}{3} (y_{I\dot{\alpha}} \overline{y}^I_A)(z\overline{z})$   
+  $(w^I \overline{w}_K)(w^K \overline{w}_I) - \frac{1}{4} (\overline{w}_I \Gamma_A \overline{w}_K)(w^I \Gamma_A^* w^K) - \frac{1}{2} (zw^I)(\overline{w}_I \overline{z}) + \frac{1}{3} (\overline{w}_I \Gamma_A z)(w^I \Gamma_A^* \overline{z}) + \frac{1}{3} (z\overline{z})^2$   
-  $\frac{1}{12} (z \Gamma_A z)(\overline{z} \Gamma_A^* \overline{z}) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \epsilon_{IJK} x^$ 

where  $\lambda$  being related to the overall squashing is undetermined, and  $\overline{x}_I \equiv (x^I)^*, \overline{y}^I_A \equiv (y_{IA})^*$ , etc.

#### V. THE FOUR-FERMION INTERACTIONS

A supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model has four-fermion interactions, Eq. (3). The structure of these interactions is determined by the curvature tensor of the Kahler manifold. The general formula derived in Sec. III, namely, Eq. (27), allows a few general conclusions to be drawn about the interactions.

For a Kahler manifold with irreducible isotropy representation, e.g., the Hermitian symmetric spaces, $17$  the expression for curvature tensor, by Eq. (27), becomes

$$
R_{JKMN*}^{I} = \frac{-1}{C_M} f_{aJ}^{I} f_{MN*}^{a} .
$$
 (33)

We recall that the index a runs through all generators of the isotropy group  $H$ . Therefore the four-fermion interactions of the model based on such a Kahler manifold have the same group-theoretical structure as the effective four-fermion interactions that would have resulted from exchange of one massive gauge boson of gauge group H.

For a Kahler manifold with reducible isotropy representation, not all components of curvature tensor can be reduced to the form given by Eq. (33).

The general expression for the curvature tensor is, from Eq. (27),

$$
R_{JMN*}^{I} = -\frac{1}{(C_{M}C_{N})^{1/2}} f_{aJ}^{I} f_{MN*}^{a} - \left(\frac{C_{J}}{C_{I}C_{M}C_{N}}\right)^{1/2} f_{kJ}^{I} f_{MN*}^{K}
$$

$$
- \left(\frac{C_{I}}{C_{J}C_{M}C_{N}}\right)^{1/2} f_{K*J}^{I} f_{MN*}^{K*}
$$

$$
- \frac{1}{C_{K}} \left(\frac{C_{I}C_{J}}{C_{M}C_{N}}\right) f_{N*K}^{I} f_{MJ}^{K}
$$

$$
+ \frac{C_{K}}{(C_{I}C_{J}C_{M}C_{N})^{1/2}} f_{MK}^{I} f_{N*J}^{K}. \qquad (34)
$$

There are values of  $(I, J, M, N)$  index for which the last four terms at the right-hand side of Eq. (34) result in four-fermion interactions which cannot be induced by exchange of a gauge boson of the gauge group  $H$ . A glance at the last six terms of the Kahler potential given by Eq. (32) immediately verifies the point.

Specializing to the E<sub>8</sub> models, where  $H = SO(10)$ <br>SU(3)×U(1), SO(10)×SU(2)×U(1)<sup>2</sup>, and SO(10)  $\times$ SU(3) $\times$ U(1), SO(10) $\times$ SU(2) $\times$ U(1)<sup>2</sup>, and  $\times$ U(1)<sup>3</sup>, we conclude first that the critical mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$ may be around or beyond the usual for grand unification, namely,  $\Lambda_{\text{GUT}} \approx 10^{15}$  GeV. Otherwise, the four-fermion interactions would likely induce a rate of proton decays too abundant to be consistent with experimental result. Second, there are four-fermion interactions different from those induced by either SU(5) or SO(10) grand unifying gauge interactions. They may be a source of some phenomena not predictable by the standard renormalizable theory.

One can get a better understanding of the abovementioned property of the four-fermion interactions by invoking the concept of a holonomy group. The curvature two-form  $R_I^T$  provides a representation of the generators of the holonomy group. Furthermore the components  $R_{I*JMN*}$  obey the symmetry relation  $R_{I*JMN*}$  $=R_{N*MJI*}$ . When the four-fermion interactions are pictured as current-current interactions, the currents have the property of the generators of the holonomy group. In the case of Eq. (33), we say the holonomy group is identical to the isotropy group. But in general, according to Eq. (34), they are not identical.

## VI. EXPLICIT BREAKING OF G SYMMETRY BY SUPERGRAVITY

The global symmetry  $G$  of a supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model has to be explicitly broken in order for the model to approximate reality to a higher order. One source of

such breaking will come from the gauging of a subgroup  $S \subset H$ . It breaks G to  $S \times R \subset G$  at the tree level, where R commutes with S. Further effects resulting from gauging of supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  models have been studied of supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  models have been studies<br>before.<sup>17,18</sup> Here we point out two plausible mechanism which are available when the model is coupled to supergravity.

It is an intrinsic property of a Kahler manifold that there exists at least one linear combination, denoted  $Q$ , of the generators of the center of the isotropy group  $H$ , such that the sum of the  $Q$  charges of  $\sigma$  fermions is nonvanishing, i.e.,

$$
\sum_{I} Q_{I} \neq 0 \tag{35}
$$

where I runs through all  $\sigma$  fermions. The U(1) generated by  $Q$  is a chiral  $U(1)$  because the fermions are twocomponent Weyl fermions. Therefore it happens necessarily that the fermion triangle with one Q current and two energy-momentum tensors has an anomaly. The Q current,  $J_{\mu}^{Q}$ , of massless  $\sigma$  fermions is not conserved, but obeys

$$
D_{\mu}J_{\mu}^{Q} = \frac{-1}{384\pi^{2}}\sum_{I}Q_{I}R\widetilde{R} \tag{36}
$$

where  $R\widetilde{R} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} R_{\mu\nu\sigma\tau} R^{\sigma\tau}_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $R_{\mu\nu\sigma\tau}$  being the usual Riemann curvature tensor of curved space-time.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>Q</sup> is an element of the algebra of G. The violation of global conservation of  $Q$  implies the simultaneous violation of the symmetries generated by those generators, denoted by  $X$  generically, which carry nonvanishing  $Q$ charge, because  $Q$  is required for the closure of the commutators  $[X,\overline{X}]$ , where  $\overline{X}$  denotes the anti-Hermitian conjugate of X. For the  $E_8$  model with  $H = SO(10)$  $\times$ SU(3) $\times$ U(1), Q is the generator of the U(1) center of H, i.e.,  $Q = T$  of Eq. (10), and  $\sum_{I} Q_{I} = 56$ . The E<sub>8</sub> is broken explicitly to  $SO(10)\times SU(3)\subset H$  by this mechanism. In general one may choose  $Q_I \propto C_I$ .

The second plausible mechanism is the following. When a supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model is coupled to supergravity, general Kahler invariance, Eq. (2), of the action can be preserved at the classical level if and onlv if a Kahler transformation, Eq. (2), is accompanied by a chiral ransformation of the Fermi fields:<br> $\chi^{i} \rightarrow \exp\left[\frac{1}{4}(F - F^{*})\gamma_{5}\right] \chi^{i}$ ,

$$
\chi^{i} \to \exp\left[ + \frac{1}{4} (F - F^{*}) \gamma_{5} \right] \chi^{i},
$$
  

$$
\psi_{\mu} \to \exp\left[ - \frac{1}{4} (F - F^{*}) \gamma_{5} \right] \psi_{\mu},
$$
 (37)

where  $\psi_{\mu}$  is the gravitino (Rarita-Schwinger field).<sup>20</sup> The chiral transformation, Eq. (37), can be traced back to a U(1) symmetry denoted R. Each  $\chi^{i}$  carries  $+\frac{1}{4}$  units of R charge while  $\psi_{\mu}$  carries  $-\frac{1}{4}$ . Modulo the uncertainty caused by the field-dependent  $(F - F^*)$ , we expect a violation of the R symmetry by the anomaly of the fermion  $(X<sup>i</sup>)$ and  $\psi_{\mu}$ ) triangle with one R current and two energymomentum tensors. This anomaly thus breaks the Kahler invariance. The understanding of this mechanism is still in a preliminary stage, further progress is needed.

### VII. DISCUSSIONS APPENDIX

Contrasting the structure of the supersymmetric nonlinear  $\sigma$  model studied here, particularly Secs. II and III, with that of the ordinary nonlinear  $\sigma$  model we cannot help but be impressed by the power of supersymmetry. Besides pairing up the Fermi fields with Bose fields, supersymmetry demands that the manifold, on which the Bose fields take value, should carry an invariant complex structure, which in turn leads to nontrivial handedness assignment of the Fermi fields. Furthermore, the number of independent squashing parameters is greatly reduced in the supersymmetric models. Consequently, we anticipate a crucial role to be played by the mechanism responsible for breakdown of supersymmetry, especially in the matter of confronting the  $E_8$  models with reality. Of course the  $E_8$  symmetry, and parts of the isotropy groups  $H = SO(10) \times SU(3) \times U(1)$ ,  $SO(10) \times SU(2) \times U(1)^2$ , and  $SO(10)\times U(1)^3$  need to be broken too. We pointed out two plausible symmetry-breaking mechanisms, which involve gravity, in Sec. VI. They deserve further study.

In Sec. V, through an analysis of the four-fermion interactions inherent in the  $E_8$  models we concluded that the characteristic mass scale  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  should be around or beyond the grand unification mass scale  $\Lambda_{\text{GUT}} \approx 10^{15}$  GeV. Indeed there is an additional argument which suggests that  $\Lambda_{\sigma} > \Lambda_{\text{GUT}}$ . This argument originates from the fact that, in the  $E_8$  models, the SU(3)<sub>C</sub>  $\times$  SU(2)<sub>L</sub>  $\times$  U(1) gauge group as well as the grand unifying gauge group SU(5) [or SO(10)] is embedded in the isotropy group of each  $E_8$ model. Spontaneous breakdown of the grand unifying gauge group to  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)$  at  $\Lambda_{GUT}$  therefore necessarily means simultaneously spontaneous breakdown of the SU(5) [or SO(10)] subgroup of isotropy group  $H$ . Thus, the structure  $E_8/H$  loses its meaning if  $\Lambda_\sigma \leq \Lambda_{\text{GUT}}$ . This phenomenological lower bound on  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  suggests naturally that  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  may in fact be related to the Planck mass  $M_P$ .

Now let us assume that one of the three  $E_8$  models is the correct one. What conclusion can one draw from it about the dynamical degrees of freedom proper to the matter in the preonic phase? First of all, the model implies a supersymmetric preonic phase. Second, since  $E_8$  is not a classical group, the new degrees of freedom cannot be the commonly speculated pointlike preons. (The global symmetry of the ordinary preon model is necessarily a classical group, or a product of classical groups.) Third, taking the suggestion that  $\Lambda_{\sigma}$  be related to  $M_{P}$ , we expect the new degrees of freedom to live in a new phase of space-time. In the present state of the art, the superstrings in higher-dimensional space-time seem to be the only plausible candidate for the new dynamical degrees of freedom.

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The E<sub>8</sub> has 248 generators. In terms of the basis  $L_{AB}, T_J^I, T, \overline{X}_I, \overline{Y}_A^I, \overline{W}_{I\dot{\alpha}}, \overline{Z}_\alpha, X^I, Y_{IA}, W^I_\alpha, Z_{\dot{\alpha}}\}$  defined in Sec. II, we obtain the following nonvanishing commutators for the algebra:

$$
[L_{AB},L_{CD}] = \delta_{BC}L_{AD} + \delta_{AD}L_{BC} - \delta_{AC}L_{BD} - \delta_{BD}L_{AC},
$$
  
\n
$$
[T_J^I, T_L^K] = i\delta_J^K T_J^I - i\delta_L^I T_J^K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[L_{AB},Y_{IC}] = -\delta_{CB}^{\mu} Y_{ID},
$$
  
\n
$$
[L_{AB},Y_{a}] = -(\Sigma_{AB})_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} W_B^I,
$$
  
\n
$$
[L_{AB},Z_{a}] = -(\Sigma_{AB})_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} Z_{\beta},
$$
  
\n
$$
[T_J^I, X^K] = i\delta_J^K Y_A - \frac{1}{3}i\delta_J^I Y_K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[T_J^I, Y_{KA}] = -i\delta_K^I Y_{JA} + \frac{1}{3}i\delta_J^I Y_{KA},
$$
  
\n
$$
[T_J^I, W_{\alpha}^K] = i\delta_J^K W_{\alpha}^I - \frac{1}{3}i\delta_J^I W_{\alpha}^K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[T, X_{IA}] = \frac{2}{3}iY_{IA},
$$
  
\n
$$
[T, X_{IA}] = \frac{2}{3}iY_{IA},
$$
  
\n
$$
[T, Z_a] = iZ_{\alpha},
$$
  
\n
$$
[X_I^I, Y_{JA}] = \epsilon_{IJK}^I \bar{Y}_A^I,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{X}_I, Y_{JA}] = \epsilon_{IJK}^I \bar{Y}_A^I,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{X}_I, Y_{JA}] = \epsilon_{IJK}^I \bar{Y}_A^I,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{Y}_A^I, \overline{Y}_B^I] = \delta_{AB} \epsilon^{IJK} \overline{X}_K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{Y}_A^I, \overline{Y}_B^I] = \delta_{AB} \epsilon^{IJK} \overline{X}_K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{Y}_A^I, \overline{Y}_B^I] = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \delta_J^I (\Gamma_A^A)_{\alpha\beta} \overline{W}_K \beta,
$$
  
\n<

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$$
[\overline{Z}_{\alpha}, Y_{IA}] = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\Gamma_A)_{\alpha\beta} \overline{W}_{I\dot{\beta}},
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{Z}_{\alpha}, W_{\beta}^I] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\Gamma_A)_{\alpha\beta} \overline{Y}_{A}^I,
$$
  
\n
$$
[\overline{Z}_{\alpha}, Z_{\dot{\beta}}] = -\frac{3}{4} i \delta_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} T - \frac{1}{2} (\Sigma_{AB})_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} L_{AB},
$$
  
\n
$$
[Y_{IA}, Y_{JB}] = \delta_{AB} \epsilon_{IJK} X^K,
$$
  
\n
$$
[Y_{IA}, W_{\alpha}^J] = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \delta_J^I (\Gamma_A)_{\alpha\beta} Z_{\dot{\beta}},
$$
  
\n
$$
[W_{\alpha}^I, W_{\beta}^J] = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \epsilon^{IJL} (\Gamma_A)_{\alpha\beta} Y_{KA},
$$
  
\n
$$
[W_{\alpha}^I, Z_{\dot{\beta}}] = \delta_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} X^I,
$$

and their Hermitian conjugates. The objects  $\Gamma_A$ ,  $A=1,2,\ldots, 10$ , are  $16\times16$ -dimensional gamma matrices for SO(10). The explicit form for  $\Gamma_A$  is

$$
\Gamma_A = \begin{bmatrix}\n0 & -\delta_l^A & 0 \\
-\delta_i^A & 0 & -\delta_{mn}^{Ai} \\
0 & -\delta_{jk}^A & \epsilon_{Ajkmn}\n\end{bmatrix}, \text{ for } A = 1, 2, ..., 5 ;
$$
\n
$$
\Gamma_A = \begin{bmatrix}\n0 & -\delta_l^A{}^{-5} & 0 \\
\epsilon_{ijkmn} & 0 & -\delta_{mn}^{(A-5)i} \\
\epsilon_{ijkmn} & -\delta_{jk}^{(A-5)j} & \epsilon_{(A-5)jkmn}\n\end{bmatrix}, \text{ for } A = 6, 7, ..., 10 ,
$$

where  $(0, i, [jk])$  is the row index, and  $(0, l, [mn])$  is the column index, in accordance with the splitting  $16=1+5+10$  with respect to  $SO(10)\supset SU(5)$  branching. One can introduce  $32 \times 32$ -dimensional gamma matrices

$$
\gamma_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \Gamma_A \\ \Gamma_A^{\dagger} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \ \ A = 1, 2, \ldots, 10 \ ,
$$

which obey the Clifford algebra  $\{\gamma_A, \gamma_B\} = 2\delta_{AB}$ . The objects  $\Sigma_{AB}$  are defined as

$$
\Sigma_{AB} = \frac{1}{4} (\Gamma_A \Gamma_B^{\dagger} - \Gamma_B \Gamma_A^{\dagger}).
$$

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